

# FRANCE WILL NOW SUPERVISE ALL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES

## FRENCH INSURANCE LAWS WELCOMED

Director of One of the American Companies in Paris Says Legislation Is Necessary.

### WILL PREVENT ANY FRAUDS

Aim Is to Create State Insurance Department on Same Lines as Other European Countries.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PARIS, Saturday.—For some time past rumors have been current that new French legislation with regard to insurance companies might have an unfavorable effect on the position of American insurance companies in France.

There was a new law passed on March 17, 1905, but until the present date the "règlement d'administration publique"—the interpretation of the new law—has not been drawn up by the Council of State. It is stated that this delay is due to representations made to the French government by the Ambassador of the United States.

With a view to obtaining authentic information in regard to the position of affairs, a HERALD correspondent called on the director of one of the leading American insurance companies.

"The aim of the new legislation," said my informant, "is to create a State insurance department in France, such as exists in Germany, Austria, Russia and other European countries. In itself it is an excellent idea. Such a department has long been wanted in France."

"If it had existed the creation of the rente viagère of famous memory organized by Mme. Humbert would have been impossible, and the Caisse Paternelle, which failed some years ago, would also have been impossible."

### New Bill Passed.

"The new bill was passed March 17, 1905. It provided for the creation of a body called the Comité Consultatif des Assurances, which was to act as an advisory board to the Minister of Commerce in all matters relating to life insurance and to aid the Council of State in drawing up the règlement d'administration publique, laying down the lines on which the new law was to be enforced."

"This règlement will be continued in nine decrees. Four of these have already appeared; the other five are yet to be drawn up."

"As far as American companies are concerned, the new legislation is in every way welcome. All that we ask is to be put on an equal footing with the French companies. What they can do we can do also."

"One point about the law that has given trouble is in regard to the guarantee of reserves. For this object the law provides that these shall be invested in recognized French securities. This we are willing to do, to date from when the law was passed."

**Measure Retroactive.**  
"But the difficulty was that there seemed a tendency to make the measure retroactive; that is to say, to make it apply to all policies in existence. This, however, would be a great hardship and the French policy holders would be the first to suffer by it."

"The funds guaranteeing the existing policies have been invested in first class American securities, bearing interest at from four to four and half per cent, and if these invested funds be withdrawn from America and placed in French three per cent rentes it will be equivalent to diminishing their earning powers by twenty-five per cent. This was pointed out to M. Rouvier, who, as a business man, was able himself to see the argument."

"I hear that the Council of State will not resume the examination of the règlement d'administration until the middle of the month, as it is occupied with drawing up important matters connected with the laws regulating the relations of the Church and State in France."

## SUICIDE'S ROPE BROUGHT NO LUCK

Pedler Comes to Accidental Death Through Adherence to an Old Superstition.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PARIS, Saturday.—The superstition that the rope with which some one has hanged himself will bring luck has just been disproved in a tragic manner. A man named Durand in the Temple quarter hanged himself. Hearing this a pedler went upstairs to his apartment and cut off a few inches of the rope.

He was going off with the trophy when his foot slipped and he fell down a whole flight of stairs. He was picked up in a dying condition and succumbed on his way to a hospital.

## HONOR FOR MR. STILLMAN.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PARIS, Saturday.—The president of the Automobile Club of France Mr. James Stillman, of New York, was elected a member.

Names of Americans registering at the office of the European Edition of the Herald, No. 49 Avenue de l'Opera, Paris, will be called and published in the NEW YORK HERALD. Those interested in America will thus be enabled to learn the whereabouts of friends travelling abroad.

## KING OSCAR AT NICE.

Swedish Sovereign Walks in Streets on Pleasant Days.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] NICE, Saturday.—Although the carnival is over, Nice is crowded. This week the weather has been fine. The picturesque figure of King Oscar is now a familiar sight. On any pleasant day he may be seen walking in the streets. Many Americans are here, some attracted by the tennis tournament, which begins next week.

## GOLF AT PAU.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PAU, Saturday.—A fall of snow on Wednesday made a disagreeable change in the weather. Golf continues the principal attraction, competition for the prize being keen.

## ALPINE MOTOR CARS AND PROPOSED TUNNEL UNDER MONT BLANC CHAIN NEW MARVELS FOR TOURISTS IN SWITZERLAND



Dogs of St Bernard Hospice in their enclosure.

## TO REMEASURE MERIDIAN ARC

Prince Roland Bonaparte Gives \$20,000 to Defray Expenses of the Undertaking.

### MISSION GOING TO QUITO

French Government Sends Expedition to South America to Conclude Scientific Task.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PARIS, Saturday.—Prince Roland Bonaparte has given the sum of 100,000 francs (\$20,000) to defray the expenses of a mission sent to Quito by the French government in connection with the remeasuring of an arc of the meridian.

## MARDI GRAS IS DEGENERATING

Event Yearly Becoming More of a Riot Than a Carnival in the Gay French Capital.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PARIS, Saturday.—No sooner this week had Parisians begun to take hope from the warm days and talk of coming spring than disagreeable weather returned. A cold rain and drizzle marked the last days of the week.

Mardi Gras, however, was all that could be desired. It was a warm and bright day and the evening was almost balmy. Complaint is made that Mardi Gras is yearly becoming more of a riot than a carnival. The justice of this criticism is found in the fact that fifteen hundred arrests were made for rowdiness. The night now seems to be given over to miscreants who take advantage of the crowd and costumes to rob and even to attempt murder.

Instead of confetti these so-called Apaches throw pepper in the eyes of their victims, blind them, and then take their valuables. The French press, pointing out these conditions, demands reforms.

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## COLD WEATHER VISITS FLORENCE

Ball Given by Baronessa Ricassoli-Firidolfi in the Oltr'Arno Quarter Is Numerously Attended.

[From the European Edition of the Herald.] FLORENCE.—The sun has disappeared and horrible rainy and cold weather is prevailing.

The second ball given by Baronessa Ricassoli-Firidolfi in her palazzo, a remarkable building in the Oltr'Arno quarter, was more numerously attended and marked by even greater "entrain" than the first. Some young debutantes were remarkable: Marchesina Lenzi and Foss, Signorina M. de' Rossi, Marchesina Bartolini-Baldelli, Marchesina Bargagli-Petrucchi and Marchesina Paoletti. Over seventy young ladies were present, and I recognized among them, besides the young "patroness of the case," Baronessina Elisa Ricassoli and Baronessina Caterina Ricassoli, Principessa Corsini, Marchesina Pianetti, Principessa di Scilla, Mlle. Finali, Contessina Niccolini, Principessa di Apricena, Marchesina di Montagliari, Mlle. Tigrane, Mlle. de Neuville, Miss Mansfield, Miss Ryerson, Baronessina Levi, Marchesina Alton-vid-Avila, Miss Clark, Contessina Belle-garde, Contessina Guicciardi, Contessina Saporiti-Mocenigo, Contessina Gignouci, Contessina Michel, Duchessa di Somma, Miss Fuller, Signorina Baldissari, Signorina Cora Amaratone, Signorina Bartoli, Signorina Cantagalli, Signorina Reghini, Miss C. de Trencher, Signorina Centaro and Signorina d'Andrade.

I also noticed Principessa Corsini, Principessa di Scilla, Principessa di Apricena, Mlle. Finali, Duchessa di Somma, Signorina de Filippi di Somma, Marchesina di Montagliari, Marchesina Foss, Contessina Ricassoli, Contessina Niccolini, Mlle. Brun, Principessa Abro-Fagratide, Baronessa Levi, Mlle. de Neuville, Contessina de Bellegarde, Marchesina Strozzi Ridolfi, Marchesina Paoletti, Marchesina Bargagli-Petrucchi, Contessina Guicciardi, Signorina A. de' Rossi, Marchesina Atovitti, Signorina Baldissari, Marchesina Prescobaldi, Contessina Alberti-Fegely, Signorina Cora, Contessina Michel and Mrs. Ryerson.

Contessina Guicciardi-Strozzi, who was also present, received universal congratulations on the recent appointment of her husband, Conte Francesco Guicciardi, as Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs. A brilliant cotillon, led by Baronessina Elisa Ricassoli and Don Ernesto Corsini, ended at two o'clock.



The Grandes Jorasses.

Visitors to the Hospice of St. Bernard in the season of 1905 may be taken there in a motor car if the plans now under consideration are carried out. It is possible also that trains will in future run under Mont Blanc. Special despatches to the

## GORGEOUS JEWEL MADE IN LONDON

Turkish Potentate Orders Magnificent Plastron Rivaling in Splendor Arabian Nights Gems.

### CONTAINS 8,000 BRILLIANTS

Butterflies of Jewels Poised on Glittering Flowers Surround Centrepiece of Oriental Crescent in Pearls.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] LONDON, Saturday.—London has the distinction of having produced perhaps the most magnificent piece of jewelry made in modern times. A Turkish potentate commissioned Messrs. Dobson, jewellers, of Piccadilly, to produce a plastron of surpassing beauty, rivaling the jewels of the Arabian Nights in splendor.

From his own treasures he supplied a number of beautiful pearls the size of small nuts, and a single diamond of wonderful brilliance, leaving Messrs. Dobson to furnish the rest of the jewels. There are no fewer than eight thousand brilliants, besides emeralds and rubies.

Mr. Arthur Dobson said, in showing it: "We submitted several sketches and after the approval of one we commenced the work two years ago, and it is just completed."

Drawing aside a silk curtain, he revealed lying on a velvet background a jewel of indescribable beauty. It measures two feet four inches in length and is made to button round the neck by a wonderful circle of diamonds spreading it out on the breast, and showing butterflies of jewels, daintily poised on glittering flowers, surrounding a centerpiece of the Turkish crescent in pearls. In three rows, each as large as a Barcelona nail.

The crescent itself is the size of a tea plate, and at the top is the sign manual of the Sultan of Turkey in emeralds, and a verse of the Koran in rubies fills the center. From the crescent, on ropes of glittering gems, hangs a square medallion the size of an ordinary cigarette case, on which, standing on an emerald mound, is the Turkish flag in rubies, the whole being backed by diamonds.

Below is suspended in a diamond frame a miniature, carte de visite size, of the purchaser, and completing the whole scheme, at the extreme bottom, is a pearl as large as an acorn. Every piece can be detached from the others and worn separately, or, with truly Oriental magnificence, the whole can be suspended from the neck like a trembling, quivering blaze of fire. The value of the treasure is estimated at £20,000 (\$40,000).

King Edward had the jewel taken to Buckingham Palace and expressed pleasure that English workmen had produced such fine jewelry. On picking it up His Majesty laughingly remarked that he was glad he was not forced to wear anything so gorgeous or heavy.

## TOUR OF AMERICAN VIOLINIST ENDS

Mr. Albert Spalding Completes Successful Circuit of Many French Cities.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PARIS, Saturday.—Mr. Albert Spalding, a young American violinist, has just finished a tour of French cities, embracing Nice, Marseilles, Nîmes, Lyons and Bordeaux. His tour was most successful, and he has now returned home to his parents, in Florence, where at the end of the month he will give a concert with the famous cornetist, Mr. Saint-Saëns.

## King Carnival Reigns at Nice

Procession of Cars and Cavalcades Quarter of a Mile Long Enters the Town in Bright and Sunny Weather.

[From the European Edition of the Herald.] NICE.—The weather is bright and sunny, with the thermometer at 11 degrees Centigrade. The fêtes began to-day. Carnival is here. The effigy of King Carnival XXIV, entered Nice this evening, accompanied by a procession of cars and cavalcades a quarter of a mile in length, with four hundred soldiers of the 112th regiment of the line bearing torches and with all the rabble of Nice as an escort, for Carnival is above all the fête of the "people."

The illuminations of the avenue de la Gare and the place Massena were as beautiful as they always are. There was the braying of brass bands, the throwing of serpentine and the usual merry horseplay of the southern crowd, full of cheerfulness and gaiety—particularly the latter. The streets were full, the stands packed and enough racket and bull-balloo made to make everybody believe they must be having the good time of their lives.

In short, it was Carnival, the most brilliant fête of its kind in Europe, but always and ever the same good old Carnival. It lasts until February 27. Although Nice seems full now, there must be room for more, as the regular Carnival excursion trains do not begin to arrive until Saturday next.

Among to-day's arrivals are:—M. Nicolas de Witpotchky, M. Serge de Tagore Gleboff, Mr. James Whipple, Mr. George O'Brien, Captain Wheeler, Colonel and Mrs. Acklon, Mr. Wilson, Marquis de Montesquiou, Comte and Comtesse de Brulle, Marquis de Colbert, Comte de Suffren and Prince de Tonnay-Charente.

The King of the Belgians went to Saint-Raphael to-day, and had an interview with his daughter, Princess Clementine.

M. de Joly, Prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes, went to Villefranche this morning and called on Admiral Touchard, commanding the Mediterranean squadron.

Miss Botha, the daughter of the famous Boer general, arrived here to-day, accompanied by Miss Birtwell.

The grand ball at the Prefecture will take place on Saturday evening next.

Mrs. and Miss Salisbury have arrived from Germany.

## HIS HOUSE LIKE A SHIP'S TURRET

Man Hires Sixth Floor Apartment in Montmartre and Fortifies Belvedere.

### MYSTERIOUS CHANGES MADE

Tenant Said To Be Baron Raoul de Vaux, Who Was Brought Before the High Court.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PARIS, Saturday.—Important and somewhat mysterious alterations have been made to the well known Maison de Belvedere, in the Rue Gabrielle, at Montmartre. Some three years ago the sixth floor of the apartment and the belvedere were in the hands of "Jacques Caban, a man of letters," who immediately modified its appearance.

Iron curtains were placed before all the windows and the staircase leading to the belvedere was narrowed so as to prevent the passage of more than one person at a time. All the doors were replaced by thick oaken shutters, and an iron grate cut off the apartment from the rest of the house. Other remarkable alterations were made, and the work was completed weeks ago. The belvedere now resembles the turret of a battle ship.

The main states that "Jacques Caban" is in reality Baron Raoul de Vaux, whose mysterious alterations installation in the Châlet, de la Mouche at the Pré Catelan was reported last year. He appeared before the High Court in 1899.

## FOHN WIND AT ST. MORITZ

Scatters the Snow and Works Havoc on the Toboggan Runs.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] ST. MORITZ, Saturday.—A strong "föhn" wind has been blowing for two days, which has scattered the already scant covering of snow and is working havoc in the rinks and toboggan runs. Skiing, however, continues.

## AUTOMOBILES TO MEET AT MILAN

International Congress To Be Held There from May 24 to May 29.

### MAYOR ON THE COMMITTEE

Also Includes Presidents of Clubs of Italy, France, Belgium and Many Other Countries.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] MILAN, Saturday.—An international automobile congress will be held here from May 24 to May 29. The committee of the congress includes the Mayor of Milan and the presidents of the automobile clubs of Italy, France, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, Germany, England, Spain, Switzerland, Russia and America.

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### DRY GOODS, &C.

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## MESSAGE TO THE STOUT WOMAN.

MADAM, YOUR FIGURE IS GREATLY REDUCED.



SELF-REDUCING

WITH BUST SUPPORTERS WITH RELIEF STRAP

N° 515 N° 512

It was introduced last season, and its enormous sale within this short period proves that the stout woman has found at last what she has been looking for—A CORSET THAT ACTUALLY REDUCES HER FIGURE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST DISCOMFORT.

The NEW NEMO SELF-REDUCING CORSET is a great improvement over the old one, of which 2,000,000 pairs were sold in eight years. It retains the original "Self-Reducing Idea," to which has been added the new RELIEF STRAP, the new GRADUATED FRONT STEEL and the new DOUBLE GARTER ATTACHMENT.

These new patented features are simply invaluable to women who are physically weak and to those who stand and walk a great deal. It is not expensive. It is within the reach of all classes and satisfies the most artistic taste.

Model No. 312, for the tall stout woman. \$3.00  
Model No. 314, for the short stout woman. \$3.00  
Both styles in Coutil & Batiste, all sizes.

## Now A Word About The New Nemo Self-Reducing Corset with "Bust Supporter."

It is unquestionably the most complete and satisfactory stout woman's corset ever made. It has all the meritorious features of the New Self-Reducing Corset, with the new "Bust Supporter" as a valuable additional feature.

This "Bust Supporter," which is the latest novelty in corset invention, gives perfect support to the sides of a well-developed bust, bringing it more to the front and avoiding that unsightly ridge at the top of the corset. This gives the appearance of a tall figure with an extra long, slender waist.

Still another new feature—the abdominal girth, which are made of the new porous material, "Cellocloth"—is of great hygienic value and gives additional support to the abdomen.

This corset gives the greatest possible value for the money. No matter what corset you have been wearing—whether it has been an expensive imported model or your favorite American make—cast it aside and wear the New Nemo. Try it and its advantages will be strikingly apparent.

It will make over your figure—give you the best shape you ever had; and for durability of wear and excellence of workmanship it is unequalled.

Model No. 515, made of French \$5.00  
Coutil; all sizes; price . . . \$5.00

FOR SALE AT ALL CORSET DEPARTMENTS.

KOPS BROS., MFRS., 35 WEST THIRD STREET, NEW YORK.

## HOLDER OF RECORD FOR BALLOONING

Comte de La Vaulx Made Fifty-Nine Ascents in Two Years in Spite of Months of Travel.

### TO COMPETE FOR THE CUP

Belgium and Germany Send Entries for the Coupe Internationale des Aeronauts.

[SPECIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.] PARIS, Saturday.—It having been stated that the record for balloon ascents in 1904-5 belongs to Señor Duro, the Intransigent calls attention to the claims of Comte Henry de La Vaulx. From January 19, 1904, to December 9, 1905, the French aeronaut made fifty-nine ascents, in spite of the fact that for six months he was travelling in America.

Belgium and Germany have sent entries for the Coupe Internationale des Aeronauts. Belgium will be represented by M. Emile Van den Driesche, Germany by Baron von Lewald and Herr Hugo.

### AT VERNET-LES-BAINS.

[From the European Edition of the Herald.] VERNET-LES-BAINS.—The glorious sunshine and remarkably equable climate of Vernet-les-Bains have already begun to attract seekers after health and those who want a bracing, cheerful, but not a noisy place. A health resort which is full of daily excitement, and where the round of gaiety and pleasure keeps people up till the early hours of the morning, as is so often the case in the overgrown fashionable watering places, is entirely unsuited to those who want rest and change without exhausting excitement; and that is just why Vernet-les-Bains is being so fully appreciated. Under its new management there is every comfort to be found in its modern hotels and the numerous chalets situated in one of the most beautiful parks of the Pyrenees. There is charming music in the afternoon in the winter gardens and in the evening during dinner.

The proprietors have secured the services of a good English doctor, and the treatment of the special maladies for which the baths and waters of Vernet-les-Bains are indicated is being carried out with remarkable success. There are also an excellent French doctor and English chaplain, and for those who enjoy lovely walks and mountain scenery nothing could be more delightful or health giving than a sojourn at this charming place. The hotels are rapidly filling up, and the season promises to be a very good one indeed. The Casino will be opened very shortly.